

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 17, 1995

Published Since 1877

## Jews for Jesus tackle month of ministry in the Big Apple

**NEW YORK, New York —** It's getting harder to do street evangelism in New York City.

Despite growing difficulties, 1,017,483 gospel tracts were handed out there and a record number of people accepted Christ as Savior as part of Jews for Jesus' month-long 1995 Summer Witnessing Campaign.

Jewish anti-missionaries attempted to interfere, but their efforts were not as extensive as previous years. What campaigners found more of this year was antagonism from everyone. When a campaigner offered a passerby a gospel tract, a common response was: "I've heard all about it before, don't bother me."

Jews for Jesus, which has held witnessing campaigns in New York every year since 1974, faced other obstacles as well. Recruiting volunteers was difficult this year, contributions for the campaign were down, and New York secular radio station WINS cancelled the contract on an ad they were running that had a Jews for Jesus gospel statement.

Despite these setbacks, more people came to faith in Christ during the 1995 campaign than in any previous year. Five hundred sixteen people made decisions for Christ this year, according to a July 31 bulletin released by the San Francisco-based Jews for Jesus.

That's why it was so rewarding when missionary Jenifer Hall crossed paths with a man for the second year in a row. Last year he was homeless, and clueless regarding the gospel. He told Jenifer he wanted to meet with someone and talk about God. This year he is an active member of a local congregation.

As one of the largest Jewish evangelism mission organizations, Jews for Jesus has branches in 10 North American and six overseas cities.

"Our evangelism is different," said campaign director Susan Perlman. "Others begin by asking a passerby, 'What church do you go to?' hoping that a discussion of

church will lead to a conversation about Christ. We are more direct. Our approach is to ask people who they think Jesus is."

This year's 23 campaigners came from around the world: Israel, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and Argentina. All Jewish believers in Jesus, they came to New York to tell people about salvation in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

Campaigners handed out one gospel tract, "Top Ten Things You Would Want to Ask God," to the crowd waiting to get into David Letterman's "Late Show."

In response to the presentation of the gospel, 3,729 unbelievers said they wanted to know more. This was 1,029 more than in the 1994 campaign and included 1,195 unbelieving Jews,

the group reported.

Russian-language literature was printed and distributed in areas of Brooklyn with large emigre populations. In one 60-minute period, 20 Russian Jewish people asked for more information about the gospel. Missionary trainee Garrett Smith said, "The Lord is doing phenomenal things among the Russians."

This year, witnessing campaigns were also held in Paris and Moscow, where campaigners handed out 1,031,335 gospel tracts. Of the Jewish people who responded, 79 accepted Jesus as their Messiah, and 1,226 said they would like more information. One hundred eighty-seven Gentiles said prayers for salvation while 2,934 wanted more information.

### Did you know...?

## Ethnic statistics prove ministry needs

**ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) —** Southern Baptists gained 459 "language congregations" in 1994, bringing the total number of those churches and missions to 7,001, according to the Home Mission Board's language church starting division.

Language churches are those with members who are predominately from an ethnic group other than Anglo or African-American. Southern Baptists worship in more than 100 languages each week.

The following information was compiled by the HMB Language Church Extension Department to boost Southern Baptists' awareness of the variety of ethnic groups in America:

— The United States is the fifth-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world.

— Los Angeles' Hispanic community is larger



— Southern Baptists broadcast in 18 languages over 275 radio and 30 television stations.

than any Central American country.

— Miami is the second-largest Cuban city.

— Daily newspapers are printed in more than 45 languages within the United States.

— Since 1975, Southern Baptists in America have resettled more than 20,000 refugees, resulting in more than 500 language and culture congregations.

— Chicago is the world's second-largest Polish city, behind Warsaw.

— More than 2,500 Southern Baptists are involved in ministries with deaf and hearing-impaired people.

— More American Indians live in urban areas than on reservations.

— More than 80% of U.S. legal immigrants come from Latin America and Asia.

— Southern Baptists broadcast in 18 languages over 275 radio and 30 television stations.



**THE GOSPEL CENSORED** — Jews for Jesus campaigners march in front of the offices of New York radio station WINS. As part of its annual Summer Witnessing Campaign, Jews for Jesus purchased advertising time on the station. WINS pulled the plug on the ad and Jews for Jesus called it religious censorship. Volunteers also reported handing out over a million gospel tracts with the good news of Y'shua (Jesus) during the month-long July witnessing effort.

### Happy 3000, Jerusalem

Jerusalem is poised to enter its third millennium with a 15-month season of celebrations and festivities that will begin Sept. 4 with a laser and fireworks display over the city's ancient Valley of the Cross, according to the Israel Ministry of Tourism. The "Jerusalem 3000" celebration will mark the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel 3,000 years ago by the nation's second king, David. The city of 600,000 ethnically-diverse inhabitants has over the centuries become the fulcrum of the three major monotheistic world religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. To handle the large influx of visitors expected for the celebration, the Israeli government has bolstered Jerusalem's infrastructure, enlarged highways, and built three new amphitheaters that will together seat more than 42,000 people. "We expect a massive wave of visitors from six continents during this special year," said Uzi Michaeli, Israel's consul and North American tourism commissioner.

### Gordy: \*\*\*\*\*

Is there an audience for authentic family movies? Christian film critic Phil Boatwright hopes G-rated "Gordy" will prove to Hollywood that family films have a future in American theaters. "This is one film I hope the religious community will support. Producer Sybil Robson has put much on the line to develop and present 'Gordy,' a true family film. Here is a filmmaker who has heard the moral outrage and has attempted to do something about it," Boatwright said. "Gordy" is the tale of a wise little pig who leaves for the big city in search of his loved ones. While on his quest, Gordy is befriended by a singing group, becomes a hero for saving a drowning boy, and becomes head of a corporation. "You have to see it to believe it," Boatwright said. Laurel native Tom Lester, who portrayed Eb on the television sitcom "Green Acres," stars in the movie. "Is 'Gordy' the best film I ever saw? No. But it may be one of the most important. It stands virtually alone on the entertainment page these days as a film that respects the family," Boatwright pointed out.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Beth Boren, a ninth-grader and member of First Church, Meridian, becomes the 100,000th teenager in the SBC to attend Centrifuge. The week-long summer camps have exploded in popularity since the program began six years ago.

#### 20 years ago

Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain and William Carey College in Hattiesburg will both air for-credit courses during the fall semester over the statewide Mississippi Educational Television broadcast network.

#### 50 years ago

An editorial in **The Baptist Record** after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima urges, "Unless we develop character which will make us worthy trustees of such power... Hiroshima will be but the beginning of incalculable tragedies... to the human family."

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Want to feel better?

The proliferation of "feel good" pepper-upper books is on the increase. Usually the title is enough to turn you off and the contents can set your teeth on edge. Why can't we grow old in peace with letting the dog out being our major activity? We are buffeted by the television, the newspaper, and often our own families to get with the program.

They urge me to run two miles even as I stagger toward the kitchen table. Pumpiron, swim the channel on your 65th birthday, ride a bicycle across America, just do something to celebrate your physicalness. I made my way over to the sofa to give it some serious consideration.

Recently I read **Ten Guidelines for a Better Marriage**. Try **Forty Plus and Feeling Fabulous** (Revell) by Ruby MacDonald. Can the sun be brighter or can I actually feel fabulous? There is **Winning the Age Game**. (You want to bet on it?) Cecil G. Osbourne's **The**

**Art of Loving Yourself** (Zondervan) sounds great, but Cecil never knew me. **Total Joy** means Marabel Morgan never looked at an uncut hay field on a rainy day. Harold I. Smith may have hit it on the head with **A Part of Me is Missing** (Harvest), and **Suddenly Single** (Revell) by Jim Smoke can leave you breathless.

You want to settle your conflicts without waging war? Try **Win-Win Relationship** (Broadman) by H. Newton Malony. Malony said, "Contradictory opinions do not mean people have a conflict. They have a problem. Conflict exists inside people, not between them. People go into conflict when they feel so personally threatened that they try to win arguments regardless of who they hurt."

"Christians," he declared, "can be winners without getting mad, getting even, or giving in.... and they can do it while allowing their adversaries to be winners too!"

Becky Freeman, mother of four and a first-grade teacher, was told by a friend, "Becky, you have to find time to write a book, even if you do have the dirtiest floor in America." She did, and **Worms in my Tea and Other Mixed Blessings** (Broadman) came forth. Lee Ezell had run interference for many of us with **Pills for Parents in Pain** (Word) with a valid prescription.

Name your pain and someone has written a book about it. Touch your sore joints and be reminded there is a way out. Run the gamut of emotions and realize others have been there before... and discovered deliverance. **The Awesome Power of Positive Attention** claimed my attention span for a moment.

Finally I made my selection, headed for the big lazy boy chair, pulled the lever and started reading **The Politics of the Prussian Army**.

The light went out on page 3.

## Guest Opinion...

## Budget planning: Blues or blessing?

By David A. Michel

Several days ago, the budget committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board met to consider requests for the 1996 Cooperative Program budget. Your church will soon be, or may already be, involved in a similar process.

In an ironic way, budget planning seems a natural fit for the dog-days of summer. Everybody comes to the meeting sweating over the numbers and everyone leaves the meeting singing the blues.

Those requesting funds are worried about sending more missionaries, caring for more children, educating more students, or fighting more evils.

Those allocating the funds are worried about finding more money, dividing what there is fairly, limiting expenses and expectations, and securing approval from the larger constituency.

Should we really be surprised at how difficult this summertime task is? Jesus never promised us that carrying out his will would be easy or cheap.

Embedded in the story of the rich young ruler (Matt. 19:16-30) is the awful truth that everyone walked away saddened and sobered by the cost of entering fully into God's kingdom.

Is there a way to avoid this sadness? Yes. If we listen carefully to Jesus, we know that he promises, "It is more blessed to give than to

receive." (Acts 20:35)

May I suggest some other beatitudes for those who carry budget planning responsibilities in their churches?

**Blessed are the entrepreneurs.** Both the rich young ruler and Jesus' disciples were worried about accounting, but Jesus appeared to have a different concern. The rich young ruler wanted to make certain that he had kept all the commandments and met all the requirements for gaining acceptance in the kingdom of heaven.

The disciples wanted to make sure that whatever they had given up in terms of family, houses, or lands would be repaid in kind.

Jesus assured all who were involved that God keeps honest books and pays dividends to those in his kingdom. However, Jesus did not seem particularly impressed with mere accounting. He reserved the highest commendation for the one who is willing to sell all that he has and to follow him wherever he leads. Jesus calls for entrepreneurial involvement in the kingdom.

Churches that seek only to balance the books often view the budget planning process with sadness. They have missed the challenge of giving themselves more deeply to Christ.

A church budget which reflects ministry opportunities offers encouragement for members to sell

themselves out for service through the body of Christ.

**Blessed are those who get the most for their money.** Americans take pride in getting the most for their dollar. Sometimes our obsession with finding a bargain or pinching pennies robs us of the joy of our expenditures.

Churches that refuse to plan and spend liberally could be losing the joy of serving Christ and seeing his kingdom prosper.

Church budget planning should include cost accounting, but it should also anticipate increased giving. Church members will respond generously if they are presented with a worthy challenge for participating in ministry.

The 1996 stewardship emphasis is "Give: Obey God's Word." Supporting materials are available at no cost from the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

A three-Sunday program entitled "Live for the Lord" suggests a design for presenting the church budget and leading members to make giving commitments. The three Sundays focus on (1) Praying for Power, (2) Planning for Ministry, and (3) Promising to Give.

**Blessed are those who admit their bankruptcy.** As the rich



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Bloom where you are

membership was still back at Homeplace.

A person is body, mind, and soul. They joined an exercise club, got a new library card, enrolled the kids in school, and the parents even attended seminars in self-improvement.

Meanwhile, back at Homeplace their name remained on the membership list. The list actually showed four times as many names as numbers attended. The absent members contributed nothing. Their presence was not there; they added nothing to the discussion. "Oh, why don't they move their membership?"

"But how could we? We love Homeplace. We can't just leave our church, our people. Why we may go back there sometime."

In Mississippi there are 683,000 members on the books and some 250,000 have moved everything except their church memberships.

— GH

Genuine spiritual maturity allows us to plan budgets, not within the realm of fiscal possibility but within the realm of God's impossibilities. Consider these suggestions for your budget planning process:

— Invite participants to sell themselves to Christ in new, creative ways through your church.

— Encourage members to celebrate every gift and every expenditure as a growing fulfillment of the Great Commission.

— Lead the congregation not to budget exclusively what they can afford, but to bank on God's inexhaustible provision as well.

**Michel is director, MBCB Stewardship Department.**

# The Baptist Record

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# Gulf Coast Association dedicates center for seamen and truckers

The Center for International Seamen and Truckers in Gulfport was dedicated Aug. 5. A large and enthusiastic crowd heard prayers of thanksgiving and praise from port officials for this unique facility.

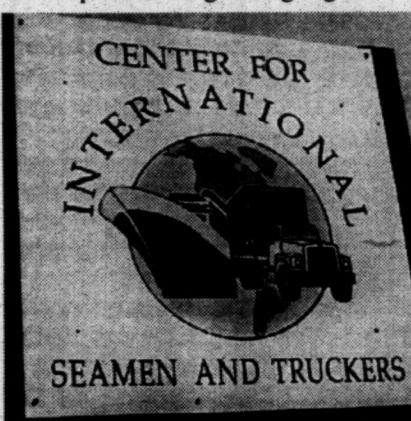
The 3,600-square-foot center contains rest areas, a library, showers, and a kitchen. Charles Corey, missionary manager of the center, said it provides "a ministry of hospitality. It is bringing the Christian community to those who come to the port and sharing the good news of the gospel."

Gulfport is the second largest banana port in the nation. Nine hundred to 1,200 trucks per week haul the bananas to cities in the Southeast and Midwest.

Recently the frozen chicken export area has grown, with ships coming from former eastern bloc nations. Some 70,000 truckers a year and hundreds of seamen

visit the port.

The ships come from the Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, the ports of Murmansk and Vladivostok, as well as Nicaragua, Guatemala, Venezuela, Korea, the Philippines, and other nations. The ships may be in Gulfport for several hours or several days. The seamen speak foreign languages and



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Charles Stanley hands over duties after church meeting

ATLANTA (BP) — Charles Stanley, senior pastor of First Church, Atlanta, has relinquished all administrative responsibilities for the 14,000-member congregation in order to deal with his marital problems.

Stanley told a four-hour, standing-room-only, called business meeting Aug. 13 he will continue as pastor but his "only responsibility will be to teach and preach the Word of God."

Upon Stanley's recommendation, the church appointed a committee to oversee administration of the church. The committee will "recommend to the church the time at which (Stanley's) administrative oversight would resume."

Stanley and his wife Anna have been separated since she filed for divorce in 1993.

"I have worked and waited two years, hoping and praying my marriage would be healed," Stanley told the estimated 4,000 members gathered in the auditorium and around closed circuit television sets throughout the downtown facility. "I am not divorced. I do not want a divorce. My wife does not want a divorce. We are trusting God will put it back together."

However, Stanley announced for the first time Sunday night, "If my wife divorces me, I would resign as pastor immediately."

Stanley, who has led First Church 26 years, also announced he would take a previously planned vacation during the month of September to "seek the Lord and his definite direction for my life."

Meanwhile, Stanley's son Andy resigned as the church's associate pastor Aug. 6, apparently in disagreement with his father's decision to remain as pastor.

In a statement read to the church, Andy, who was not in attendance at the meeting, strongly affirmed his love and admiration for his father, but said, "I believe my father should step down as pastor because of the issue of leadership, not preaching." However, he said he was committed to a model relationship with both his parents.

The business meeting was opened and closed in prayer by renowned evangelical theologian Stephen Olford and was moderated by James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A letter that was brought to the meeting, apparently from Anna Stanley to be read to the congregation, was ruled by Draper as personal in nature and not to be read at the meeting. His ruling was sustained by the congregation following an appeal.

"All Southern Baptists need to

be in prayer for First Baptist, for Dr. and Mrs. Stanley, and for Andy during these very difficult days," Draper told Baptist Press.

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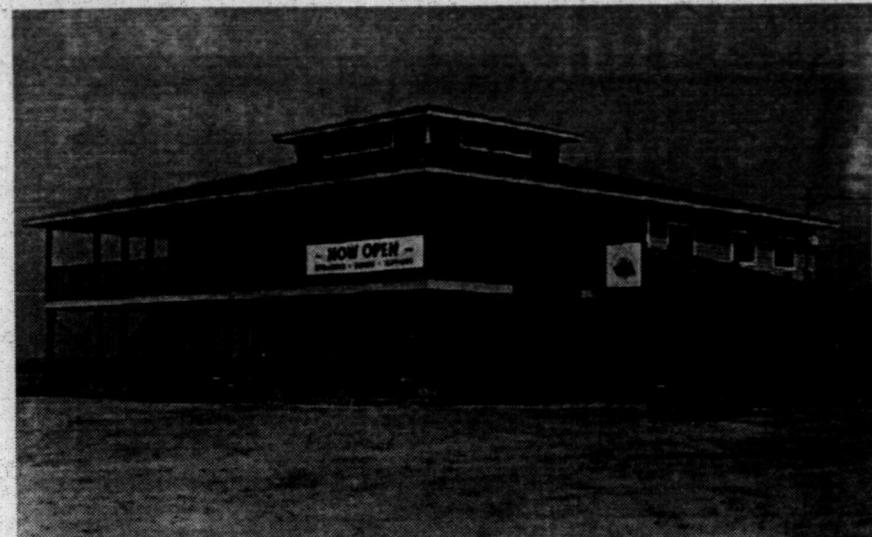
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"All Southern Baptists need to

understand limited amounts of English. They are often looking for a friendly place that will not take advantage of them. The Seamen's Center meets that need. English Bible classes are offered. Telephone services are available, and the men can rest and relax.

Bobby Perry, director of missions for the Gulf Coast Association, said, "It has added a new dimension to our ministry, and we are excited about it. The excellent facilities are practically debt-free and we have overwhelming support from Christians in this area."

Campers on Mission and other volunteers are providing the staff to assist truckers and seamen. Corey said the center is fully staffed through 1995, but it may need some help in 1996. Language Bibles, National Geographic magazines, and small health-hygiene kits are still needed. — GH



The International Center for Seamen and Truckers, Gulfport.

## Baptist Women celebrate work at world conference

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP) — Celebration was the dominate mood of the World Meeting of Baptist Women, July 28-Aug. 1 in Buenos Aires.

The leadership conference, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, drew 390 delegates from 90 countries and geographic regions around the globe.

Approximately 40 guests also attended the meeting.

In a business session, Mercy Jeyaraja Rao of India was elected president and Irene Haase of Germany as secretary-treasurer, both for five-year terms.

In keeping with its theme, "In Christ We Celebrate Life," the meeting's 10 sessions celebrated the relationship women have with Christ and each other through worship, testimonies, Bible study, and prayer.

The climax of the women's season of celebration occurred Monday afternoon and evening when 3,000 guests joined the delegates for the World Reunion of Baptist Women at Buenos Aires'

Grand Rex Theatre.

One of the more stirring moments came with the introduction of delegates from 17 new women's organizations formed in a diverse number of countries since the Women's Department's meeting in 1990.

Organizations and countries represented by the new groups include:

- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Central Asia Republics
- Croatia
- Estonia
- Euro-Asiatic Evangelical Christians-Baptist Women's Department
- Fiji
- Latvia
- Pakistan
- Philippine Southern Baptist Women's Assembly
- Moldova
- Nepal
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Vietnam
- Georgia

## HMB directors focus attention on transition, WMU, chaplains

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention will not distract the Home Mission Board from its primary task of reaching the nation for Christ, HMB President Larry Lewis pledged during the board's Aug. 9 meeting.

"Neither do I believe the SBC Executive Committee should assume the role" of structuring the new missions agency, Lewis said. "Only the directors of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) can assume that function, and half of that board is sitting here this morning."

A restructuring plan approved during the Southern Baptist Convention in June would merge the Home Mission Board with the Brotherhood Commission and Radio and Television Commission. Forty-four current HMB directors will serve on the NAMB board along with 15 members from each of the two commissions. The plan must be approved a second time at next summer's SBC annual meeting before it can be implemented.

To represent the board's interests in the merger, board chairman Steve Swofford appointed a transition committee.

Transition committee members are Charles Fuller, chairman, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va.; Ken Cheek, pastor of Northridge Church, Northport, Ala.; Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach, Miss.; Wendell Lang, pastor of First

Church, Pryor, Okla.; and, Ron Meyer, pastor of First Church, Zion, Ill. Swofford and Lewis will advise the committee and Gary Jones, HMB vice president for services, will be the staff representative.

In other business, the board voiced opposition to Woman's Missionary Union leaders' decision to produce materials for a competing missions organization, affirmed revision of the belief statement for chaplains, and appointed 14 new missionaries and three new staff members.

Board members approved a motion affirming a request from their administrative committee that Lewis write a letter to Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, protesting WMU's production of missions education material for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The CBF is an organization of moderate Southern Baptists critical of SBC leadership.

Although the motion passed by a 3-to-1 margin, several members expressed concern that the action could be perceived as opposition to WMU as a whole.

"Our concern has nothing to do with the mission support of local church WMUs," said John Avant, pastor of Coggin Avenue Church, Brownwood, Texas. "Our concern is over this serious mistake by the leadership of the national organization and the resulting deterioration of our historic relationship with WMU."

# Missionary doctor credits prayer for timely rescue

By Mike Allen

**B. Harrington**   **C. Harrington**

pilot Mike Cannata spotted the victims the morning of Aug. 6.

One bandit was found dead in the wreckage of the stolen Nissan. The victims gave descriptions of the other two. Neither has been arrested.

Harrington said his wife, a nurse, cried with anger as she went to bed Aug. 7.

"The thing that upset her the most was the possibility of being killed with her daughter watching," he said. "Also, (the bandits) were using a lot of obscenities in English. They spoke all Swahili, but they still used English obscenities while they were doing this. And she was concerned about Christine hearing all this."

After driving down the dirt road, the bandits began frisking the Americans. Mrs. Harrington hid a locket — which her husband had given her for their 10th anniversary — hanging on a gold chain from her mother.

"They felt it in her bra, and they asked what that was. She said it was just her bra, and they accepted that and went on," Harrington said.

Later, Mrs. Harrington hid the locket in the dirt. She went back Aug. 7 but couldn't find it.

She also slipped off her diamond engagement ring and wedding band and stashed them in her pocket. "Since the outfit was loose, the captors missed them," her husband said.

Moreland, 51, a missionary pilot, was bloodied in the face by several jabs with a gun butt.

"He wouldn't get down or couldn't get down as quickly as they wanted," Harrington said. "Even as thieves, at least they had some consideration for women more than the men. I think they just wanted to show (them) they meant business, using David as their target."

He said the bandits asked Moreland, "Are you a padre?" their way of asking if he was a priest.

"He said, 'Yes, I am. I'm a missionary,'" Harrington said. "Instead of shooting right then, they had a conference. After the conference, they came back with this powder that they'd mixed up in a slurry — this orange powder, which apparently was the contents of capsules, or they'd crushed up some pills."

"They mixed it with water, in front of them. They gave my wife a glass and they told her to drink it. She thought it was poison, and so she said no. And they said, 'You'd better drink it.' The other missionaries told her to go ahead and drink it. And then the others went ahead and drank theirs. Fortunately, the thieves had some knowledge of medicine, somehow, because they adjusted the dose for the size of the person."

The bandits ordered the mission-

**M. Moreland****D. Moreland**

aries to lie down on some fabric the Harringtons had bought to cover a chair. After the thieves became convinced the victims were sedated, they drove back to the main road.

As the drug began working, Mrs. Harrington's nursing training kicked in.

"As soon as the thieves went away, she encouraged everyone to put their fingers down their throat and make themselves vomit," her husband said. "But a sedative reduces your gag reflexes."

Harrington said more than 15,000 people in the United States and Tanzania had prayed for the rescue of the kidnap victims.

"I told God in my prayers, 'God, this is as much as I'm able to bear, and would (ask) you relieve it,'" he said. "And that was at about 9:30 (a.m. Aug. 6). It just now dawned on me I didn't realize it till just now. That was exactly when they were rescued."

"I did not struggle, emotionally, from that time on. It must have been at that same moment that they were picked up. If that's not a miracle, I don't know what is."

**Allen is a staff writer for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch. This story was adapted from an article published Aug. 8 by the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Used by permission. © 1995 by Richmond Newspapers, Inc.**

**Cannata**

His wife, Sandra, 35, and their 10-year-old daughter, Christine, gave statements to police Aug. 7 as the powdered drug's effects wore off.

The two were among five missionaries and children of missionaries kidnapped near Morogoro on

Aug. 5 as they took a bathroom break along a highway through a wild animal preserve. The Harringtons, from Richmond and Newport News, Va., respectively, have been Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Tanzania since 1988.

Also kidnapped were FMB missionaries David and Mildred Moreland of Monroe, La., and Joanna Giddens, 10-year-old daughter of FMB missionaries Ed and Nancy Giddens of Sepulveda, California.

Harrington, a 42-year-old physician, watched as his wife and only child were carjacked. He kneeled in the road and flailed his arms to stop passing cars. One vehicle sped past. The next turned around and picked him up. After a unsuccessful chase Harrington sought help from authorities.

Meanwhile, the bandits abandoned the victims on a remote dirt track after drugging them unconscious. Then they fled in the missionaries' four-wheel-drive Nissan. As the sedative wore off, a rescue plane flown by missionary

## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My church photocopies copyrighted material. The church leaders told me, "Big deal, so what?" This hurts me that my church would steal. As a result I have dropped out. How can this be handled?*

You did the right thing by confronting the persons responsible. Most people just fume and fuss about such things, and that is not good. You have also taken a strong stand by dropping out of church. Although this may not be the stand other people would take, it definitely sends a message that you are concerned. However, I hope you have not dropped out of your relationship with God and your fellow believers. Satan would love to use such an issue as a stumbling block to keep you from growing in your personal walk with the Lord. In this day when values and integrity get lost in "grayness," we must decide what we stand for. James 1:27 (NIV) encourages us, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." You have handled this problem in constructive ways. Now the decision is in the hands of the church leaders.

I have had a badly-needed job

offer — from a casino. I don't want to degrade my witness, but I need the job for my family. What should I do?

Have you prayed about taking this job? Are other Christians praying with you about your decision? Have you explored all your options? You must be sure you know God's will, not man's, when making such decisions. Zacchaeus continued as chief tax collector (a job well-known for cheating and deceiving people) after his encounter with Jesus, but he became fair, understanding, and apparently stayed within God's will for his life (Luke 19: 2-10). Is God calling you to the casino to minister there, or are you compromising your standards to get that "badly-needed job"? Is this the best testimony for your family? These are some of the hard questions you must answer to be sure you know where God is leading, because the last thing you want to do is get out of the direction of the Lord. Do you have to make a decision right away? If you can wait, you will have time to get over the initial excitement of the job offer and also seek the counsel of people you trust. The feeling of being needed feels great, but it can become a deceptive trap if it leads you to make a wrong decision.

**Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.**

## Ebenezer, Jeff Davis Co., marks 175th

Ebenezer Church, the second oldest Southern Baptist church in Jefferson Davis County — six months younger than the oldest, Bethany Church — celebrated its 175th anniversary on April 30.

The church was organized on May 13, 1820, with 15 charter members and two elders present. Those members were: Jacob Carter, Esau Bass, John Bass, Isaac Polk, Simon Robbins, Jacob Willis, Luke Polk, Elias Vickers, Sarah Polk, Charity Carter, Sally Willis, Rebecca Polk, Elizabeth Vickers, Edith Berry, and Nancy Bass. The two elders were Norvell Robertson Sr. and John P. Martin, who became pastor and served the church over 25 years until 1846.

The location of Ebenezer Church was in Lawrence County from 1820-24, when the county's boundary line changed. The meeting house was then located in Covington County until 1906, when Jefferson Davis County was formed.

The church has had four different meeting houses over the past 175 years. It is one of the few churches in the area which has a complete set of its church minutes. The records have been

preserved on microfilm at the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission Library at Mississippi College.

On the day of the church's recent celebration, Peggy Huey, a member of the Historical Commission, presented a special certificate to the church from the Commission. The church history was read by Donna Porter. Former pastors, members, and guests were recognized by Scott Hatton. Music was presented by a quintet of members: Sandra Hatton, Angela Lee, Jeffrey Lee, Terri Lynne Lee, and Kay Stringer. During the morning service, Harrell Sinclair, former member, served as guest music director. Hymns sung throughout the day were the same hymns sung during the church's centennial celebration in 1920.

Dan Thompson, former member, delivered the morning message. After the message, a time capsule was buried to be unearthed at the church's bicentennial, and an "Ebenezer" stone was dedicated and placed over the time capsule's burial site. After lunch an afternoon service of special music was presented by

members and guests.

Former pastors and their family members present were: R.A. Coulter, John Scott Coulter, family members of Herman Pilgrim, and B. Alfred Jones. Former members that have gone into the ministry present were Kenneth Stringer, Dan Thompson, and Harrell Sinclair.

## Corrections

A page 3 article in the Aug. 3 issue incorrectly listed the state Cooperative Program (CP) budget as \$22,606,579 for 1994. The correct year is 1995.

A page 4 article in the Aug. 3 issue incorrectly reported that First Church, Starkville, would host two meetings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Although CBF met at the church, the church did not host the events.

A page 5 article in the Aug. 3 issue incorrectly listed the telephone number for Chester Vaughn. The correct telephone number is (601) 956-6285.

# Conference attendees weigh “True Love Waits” message

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP) — Teenagers by the hundreds of thousands have responded to a call to sexual abstinence made through **True Love Waits**, but is it a message college students are ready to embrace and take to their campuses?

If the response at 1995 Student Week Conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn., is an indication, the answer is yes.

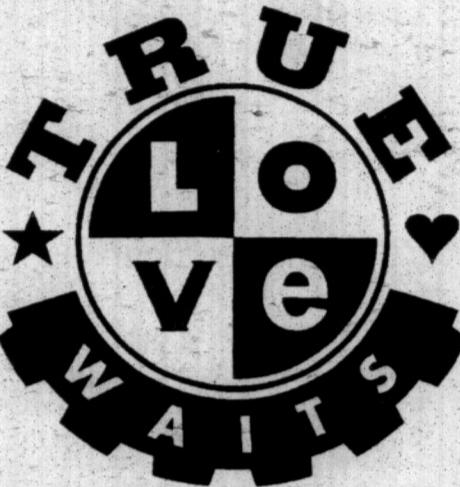
During an evening worship service Aug. 8 at the Gatlinburg Conference Center, 384 Baptist college students made a public commitment to remain chaste until marriage as part of the international abstinence campaign sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Of that total, 153 were first-time commitments and 231 were restatements of earlier pledges they had made as members of youth groups.

Students attending the Gatlinburg conference were encouraged to place God at the heart of all their dating relationships.

“If someone uses the word ‘love,’ it would behoove you to find out what kind of love they’re talking about,” Sam Douglass,

pastor of Yorktown Church, Corpus Christi, Texas, said in a morning Bible study titled, “What’s the Truth About Sex and Love?”

“There is a lot of love on your campus that is not *agape*; it’s *eros*, a sensual, physical, erotic



kind of love,” Douglass said. “Really, the word you ought to use is lust. There is no commitment, no responsibility. It is a self-centered, selfish kind of love. There is a place for *eros*, but if that’s all there is, it’s not enough.”

“I want the *agape* kind of love... a sacrificial kind of love,” Douglass said. “The kind of love that says, ‘I love you, period.’ Not, ‘I love you if....’”

He also cautioned students against “missionary dating” — going out with non-Christians in an attempt to lead them to Christ.

“You’re setting yourself up for some dangerous hurdles,” Douglass said. “Find someone to be equally yoked with.”

But he reminded students if they fail or have already failed to remain abstinent until marriage, “God is a forgiving God. If you get off track,” he said, “get back on it.”

It was standing room only in a seminar for students on how to use the new collegiate **True Love Waits** study. Session topics include Building Lasting Relationships, Learning to Make Good Decisions, Making Lifestyle Choices, and Starting Over Sexually.

A leaders’ guide, music cassette or compact disc, and two music videos also are available. To order, or for more information, call (615) 399-9357.

## Kentucky newspaper ad voices support for former prof Marshall

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — A large display ad titled “Public Statement in Support of Dr. Molly T. Marshall” appeared in the Louisville **Courier-Journal** on Sunday, July 30.

The ad in the Kentucky newspaper carried the names of about 730 people who said they “mourn the loss of Molly Marshall’s voice of advocacy in our community for women and all peoples in general.”

Marshall was asked to resign as a theology professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville. Seminary President Albert Mohler charged that Marshall’s teachings were outside the parameters of the

## Monticello’s New Zion notes 100th

New Zion Church, Monticello, will mark its 100th anniversary on Sept. 3.

Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. Worship service will follow at 10:30. A noon meal will be served.

At 1:30 p.m., there will be a service in which former pastors will speak. Following that service, the church members will participate in the burial of a time capsule.

The day’s celebration will conclude with a reception in the fellowship hall.

Bret Gilmore is pastor. For more information, call (601) 587-7453.

seminary’s doctrinal statement, the Abstract of Principles. No specific charges ever were leveled against Marshall publicly.

Critics of Mohler suggested Marshall was dismissed primarily because she is female. She joined the faculty in 1984 and later became the first female granted tenure in the theology school.

The ad supporting Marshall questions “President Mohler’s contentions that the forced resignation of Molly Marshall is not based on her gender.”

“When any woman is treated unjustly, it is a gender issue,” the ad states. “We view the treatment of Molly Marshall as clear evidence that the Southern Seminary will not tolerate diversity.”

The ad notes “profound grief” and “adamant disapproval” of Marshall’s dismissal. It praises Marshall as a teacher who “has

always stood for the honest communication of religious knowledge....”

Ironically, 11 years ago Mohler led an effort to publish a similar advertisement in the **Courier-Journal**. That ad, published Aug. 4, 1984, stated opposition to a resolution on women passed two months earlier by the Southern Baptist Convention.

At that time, Mohler worked in the development office at Southern Seminary. He helped enlist 412 people to sign an ad opposing the SBC resolution, which said women should not be ordained to ministry.

Marshall is to begin new duties this fall as visiting professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan., an American Baptist seminary which also has ties to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

## New Salem observes one and a quarter centuries

New Salem Church, Iuka, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Aug. 19-20.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, the church will host the Layman quartet from Iuka in a singing at 6:30 p.m. An ice cream supper will follow in the fellowship hall at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, there will be no Sunday School. Worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a history of the church, recognition of former pastors and their wives, former and current

deacons, and oldest members. Plaques from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Historical Commission and the association will be presented to the church. At 11:30, Edwin Kennedy will deliver the morning message.

At noon, a pot luck dinner will be served in the fellowship hall. There will be no evening service.

A book of New Salem’s history has been compiled, and is available for a \$5 donation.

Doug Farris is pastor.

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## MC puts gift to good use

Howell Todd (center), president of Mississippi College, recently visited the newest tenants of Holland House. The home, donated to MC for use by the college’s faculty in 1987, was given by the C.Z. Holland family. It is now occupied by Cooper Pope (second from left), assistant football coach, his wife Francie (left), and daughter Kristen. C.Z. Holland (right) is a 1929 MC graduate, and served as pastor of Camden Church. He is also a noted educator. He and his wife Anna Belle (second from right) live in Clinton.

## Institute for Equipping slates full agenda for Sept. 11-14 conference

The equipping team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will sponsor an Institute for Equipping on Sept. 11-14 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. The institute’s training sessions are designed to help church leaders equip Christians for service.

Specialized conferences will be presented for church program leaders in the areas of adult, youth, children, preschool, church staff, general church officers, and dedicated laypersons.

Overviews of popular training programs, such as **The Mind of Christ**, **Fresh Encounter**, **Children’s TeamKid**, **DiscipleLife**, **Grandparenting by Grace**, and **Experiencing God**, are on the agenda.

**MasterLife** will also be taught so that leaders may in turn teach the material in their church settings.

A senior adult rally and special training emphasis will be held on the morning of Sept. 14. A \$3 box lunch will be available that day if reservations are made by Sept. 12 with Jan Cossitt at the MBCB address listed below.

There is no cost for attending the institute, but the **MasterLife** course has a reduced-cost materials fee of \$80 while the **Experiencing God** (Youth Edition) leader-

ship conference has a materials fee of \$45.

No meals or child care will be provided.

Scheduled training sessions include:

- Styles of leadership.
- Effective committee work.
- Leading men’s ministry.
- Church administration.
- Woman’s Missionary Union emphasis book.
- Preaching the old, old story in a new way.
- Seven laws of the learner.
- Doctrine of the church.
- Mission opportunities for volunteers.
- Senior adult leadership.
- Institute for home and foreign mission study.
- Five love languages.

Wes Pegues, event coordinator and consultant in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, said churches will receive a detailed brochure in mid-August, but no pre-registration is required.

“This is a pick-and-choose institute. People can attend any or all sessions,” he said.

For more information, contact Pegues at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Anyone missing a wallet?

A lost wallet with no identification was turned in following the cancellation of Youth Night ’95 on the evening of July 28 at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. If the owner can identify the wallet and describe the contents, contact Matt Buckles or Ann Martin in the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



# Letters to the editor



## Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used. All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words. No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

## Proud of Lottie gifts

Editor:

I was not only interested but elated to read the article in the June 29 issue of **The Baptist Record** about Mississippi Baptists' outstanding giving to the 1994 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). It makes me even prouder than I already was that I am a Mississippi Baptist and a Southern Baptist missionary. In a state-by-state comparison, Mississippi Baptists gave the highest per capita of any state in the Southern Baptist Convention to the LMCO. They gave the third largest total gift, after Texas and North Carolina. They also had the largest percentage and dollar increases over the previous year's giving. The increase over 1993 was 32.19%, an increase of almost one third.

Margaret and I appreciate your tremendous response to the LMCO. We have been missionaries since 1987. From the beginning Southern Baptists have always taken care of our family's needs, that is, salary, housing, transportation, insurance, etc. But each year we could see that so many of our mission's ministry and capital needs went lacking because of a shortage of funds. Every year many Southern Baptist missionaries across the world give out of their pockets to see that some of these unmet need items can be funded. But, our hearts ached that giving at home was not keeping up with the mission goals or needs and certainly not with Southern Baptists' salaries. That is why your giving last year is so very significant and encouraging.

These very impressive giving records say volumes about the hearts of Mississippi Baptists.

As you know, the 1995 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$100 million. The goal is reachable if we keep our eyes on the Lord, and the funds are much needed on the foreign mission field. We are looking forward to seeing how Mississippi Baptists will respond to the challenge.

Thank you again, Mississippi Baptists, for a job well done.

Dennis and Margaret McCall  
SBC missionaries to Tanzania

## Thanks for support

Editor:

On behalf of our 4,913 home missionaries, I want to thank every Southern Baptist for supporting the 1995 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. This year's ambitious goal of \$50 million is the highest ever. It will take all of us giving sacrificially to meet

the goal. I want to encourage individuals and churches who have not yet given to consider the significant impact their dollars have on reaching our nation for Christ.

I especially want to commend those churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention which have reached or exceeded their offering goals. All are to be commended for their faithfulness in giving to this special offering which represents nearly half (49%) of the total Home Mission Board budget. One hundred percent of this offering directly supports our missionaries and their ministries on the field. I can't express enough the importance of your continued participation in this effort.

You will find Southern Baptist home missionaries ministering to the needs of hurting people in all 50 states, the Caribbean, American Samoa, Guam, and Canada. Annie Armstrong called these missionaries "substitutes," because they went for you to places you could not go. As you pray and give, you share in the victories with your "substitutes." You also share in their disappointments when needs exist and resources are not available.

Thanks for all you have done and continue to do as our partners in home missions.

Larry L. Lewis, president  
Home Mission Board

## Facing conflict, hurt

Editor:

(Paul said in) 2 Timothy 4:11: "Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry." I believe this is a very important verse to us as Southern Baptists at this point in our history. Paul and Barnabas had a very great disagreement because of John Mark. If it was like ours in the SBC today, there was anger and hurt feelings and it was a sin against the Lord. But Paul had learned on the road to Damascus that to hurt those who belonged to Jesus was to hurt Jesus himself. He evidently had such a deep anger against John Mark and mistrusted him so much that he had let it come between him and Barnabas, who had loved and nurtured him when all the other apostles had shunned and feared him. But, he repented! The above verse proves his repentance and shows how he lovingly embraced the one he had scorned.

In 1992 when we came home to face retirement after 36 years under appointment with our Foreign Mission Board, we had heavy hearts because of all the politics in our convention. We agonized in prayer about what to do. The Lord

answered, "You go home and get involved in a local church, be faithful to me, and I will take care of the politics." We are convinced that politics in God's kingdom is sin. Kingdom implies a king, and we all acknowledge that in God's kingdom, he is sovereign — totally in control. There is to be no politics, only obedience. We in the SBC don't need restructuring — we need revival! Restructuring is of the political and corporate world around us and usually is mandated by a decline in growth. True, the SBC grew rather topsy-turvy, but if we were still growing by leaps and bounds and winning the millions of lost at home and abroad as we are commanded by our Lord to do, the idea of restructuring would never have surfaced.

We need to do like Paul — repent! When we do, God will bless us financially and numerically, but if we refuse, we will decline, and later more restructuring will be necessary. Our president, Jim Henry, needs to call the SBC leadership together for prayer and repentance. "For what?" you may ask. Not for their conservative views — these are good. But for their sins against the Lord Jesus and his body. As Paul in his zeal, they have hurt other members of the body of Christ. Then they should invite the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leadership to meet with them, and they repent, too. For what? In their reaction to SBC politics, they have resorted to the same type of politics, and politics in God's kingdom is sin. Maybe the two will never be united again, but in the Spirit of Jesus, they can forgive each other, love each other, and become brothers in the body again. For this kind of obedience, we all should be praying.

Sam Cannata  
Retired missionary to E. Africa  
Waco, Texas

## Don't blame system

Editor:

As I listened to Susan Smith's sentence, it made me sick. In 30 years, at age 53, she will be eligible to go free. Then, my thoughts turned to New Mexico and the father who decapitated his son in front of his other son — will he go free after a short time in prison? Rage welled up in me towards the legal system.

However, I went back to what I always go back to: why are Christians looking to the government for answers to our problems? How can we allow ourselves to be workaholics to buy bigger and better things, "entertain ourselves to death" in our churches, and never go out and share Christ with others? I do not believe we have anyone to blame but ourselves. As I read Ezekiel 20, I was reconfirmed that God will not blame the legal system, nor will he blame the lost, although they will be judged. However, he will blame and judge his people severely who sit in church pews every Sunday and never heed his command in Matthew 28:18-20! God have mercy on us for being

apathetic to people in our nation who are dying and going to hell. Our "idols" have taken over our true relationship with Christ. Read Ezekiel 20:7-8, in which God pours out his fury on his people who do not heed his command. What fury will he pour out on us today? I cringe even to think about it!

Jesus did not come to work through the government. He came to work through his people. Stop blaming the criminal and the legal system, go out and tell someone about Jesus. See what a difference that makes!

Arlene Smith  
Canton

## Challenge to deacons

Editor:

I would like to challenge deacons to commit themselves to be more diligent in their faithfulness to our Lord and his church, to be in attendance at all worship services, prayer meetings, visitation, and faithful in stewardship, support the pastor with prayer, and have a time each day to study God's Word and pray for your church.

You men who have served as deacons a long time may tell me that these goals are unattainable. It is my personal belief that when you are given the title of deacon, you do it to serve the Lord and the people of your church, not to use as a title of distinction.

I have just been ordained as a deacon and believe that all these things can be attained. Please don't try to discourage me.

My Bible tells me that I am a son of God with all the rights, privileges, obligations, and power. It also tells me that I can do all things through Christ. Don't give up the battle. I pray that all deacons will commit their lives and their service to the Lord.

Shelly "Buddy" Brister  
Bogue Chitto

## Scriptural roles

Editor:

I was told not long ago by a former church member that there is more to pastoring than just preaching. That statement brought to mind a few verses in Acts 6:1-4. It saddens me that church members want a preacher to be so bogged down by chores that he really doesn't have time for the ministry. That is what was happening to the apostles, and that is why the church elected deacons. A lot of people think they know what a preacher is supposed to do but very few know what a deacon is supposed to do.

In smaller churches I see very little evidence of a true biblical deacon ministry as seen in Acts 6. If there is more to being a pastor than just preaching, then there is more to being a deacon than running business meetings. A pastor's main purpose is stated so clearly in Ephesians 4:11-12 — to train the church members for service. It is not the pastor's job to do all the visiting, all the soul-winning, and attend every meeting from business to youth outings, but that is what

has happened so many times in my experience pastoring. If churches would just get back to a scriptural idea of the pastorate, there is no telling what God could do.

Mike Weaver  
Belden

## Not as simple as that

Editor:

I strongly disagree with the thrust of your "Rebuilding the bridges" editorial of Aug. 3, 1995. I wish it were as simple as you make it sound, because it sounds to me as if you are saying that if enough of us will just stay out of the (SBC) controversy, it will eventually go away. I am convinced that if more people had taken a stand, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in now. If being a Southern Baptist means that I am still committed to the cooperative approach rather than the independent Baptist approach, then I'm still a Southern Baptist. If, on the other hand, it means that I have to give money that I believe belongs to the Lord to the kind of schools SBC seminaries are becoming, to the kind of political agenda the Christian Life Commission is promoting, and to the kind of tight control the Executive Committee is exercising, then I guess I'm not really a Southern Baptist anymore. But that doesn't mean I'm not a Mississippi Baptist anymore. It doesn't mean I'm not a Lebanon Association Baptist anymore. Only if these groups decide to adopt the same kind of rigidity and exclusiveness that the SBC has adopted will I have to depart from them too.

I'm right in the center of the movement (CBF) you label extremist, and I just want to say as one brother to another, that's not the right word for who we are or what we are doing! You say, "Things can still change."

How will things change? If the main body of Baptists say, not by their words but by their actions, "We're not going to take sides. You can keep on doing to our institutions and agencies what you have already done, and we'll complain about it if we don't like it, but we won't take sides," what difference will that make? We've complained for 16 years, but the complaints haven't changed anything.

Who among us, including moderates, fundamental/conservatives, and the non-involved, are not "Baptists who are conservative in theology and who are seeking to win Mississippi and the world to Christ?" There was a day when that was enough to keep us together. Then one group decided that was not enough. And, while they could not make us all alike, they took over the institutions and agencies and said that those of us who were not like them couldn't be a part of those agencies and institutions anymore. And some of us have finally said, "OK, if we can't have a part, we'll do our work another way." And we will. And we are not ashamed!

Richard L. Allison, pastor  
University Church  
Hattiesburg

# Leadership clinic... Musical Olympics slated for Aug. 25-26 at Jackson church

Musical Olympics, the statewide leadership clinic for preschool, children, and youth choirs, will be held August 25-26 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

Registration will be conducted from 6-6:30 p.m. on August 25.

The conference that evening will run from 6:30-9:30, followed by a 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. session the following morning.

Cost is \$5 per person, and no pre-registration is required. No meals or child care are provided.

Topics and conference leaders include:

— Older children: Lois Ann Roberts, children's choir coordina-

tor at First Church, Orlando, Fla.

— Younger children: Derrell Billingsley, music materials design editor in the Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

— Preschool: Tee Billingsley, preschool/children choir specialist and freelance writer, Nashville.

— Youth: Randy Edwards, minister of music at First Church, Shreveport, La., and founder of Youth Choirs, Inc.

— Coordinators: Kathy Langworthy, children's music minister at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

— One through six combined

ages: Sarah Talley, contract consultant for preschool/children in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), Jackson.

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Aubrey Jones, Miss. pastor, dies Aug. 15

Aubrey C. Jones, 60, died Aug. 15 at Lackey Hospital in Forest. Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Aug. 17 at Ephesus Church, Forest.

Jones was ordained at Harperville Church in 1965 and served pastores at Maple Street Chapel, Kosciusko; Holly Bluff, Holly Bluff; Ellard, Bruce; and Pine Grove, Clarke County.

He was also pastor in Springfield, Vt., from 1976-84 and again from 1991 until his death.

Jones is survived by his wife Peggy A. Breland Jones of Forest; daughters Angela Wilkes of Yazoo City, Pamela McCaffrey of Shaw, and Kathy Cook of Newberry, Fla.; mother Trudie Jones of Forest; four grandchildren; two sisters; and four brothers.

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Dianne Bennett and Sharon Hudson, both members of Diamondhead Church, dressed as clowns to entertain children and grandchildren of Phillipine Islands missionaries. The group met for the second time on Aug. 4-6 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

## Gulfshore hosts reunion of Filipino missionaries

The Gulfshore Baptist Assembly was the meeting place for the second gathering of the Philippine Baptist Mission Alumni on Aug. 4-6.

Fighting the aftermath of Hurricane Erin, some 140 missionaries who previously served in the Philippines met for the conference. Missionaries came from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Alabama, and Missouri. Bob and Mary Simmons, Earl and Marjorie Kelly, and Guy and Lois Henderson represented Mississippi. Many missionary children and grandchildren also attended.

James "Boe" Stanley gave a report from the Foreign Mission

Board, declaring that Southern Baptists now have 4,077 missionaries on the field. This is the largest overseas force among evangelical sending agencies. There are also 13,120 short-term volunteers, which is 27.7% over the previous year.

The Gulf Coast Associational Woman's Missionary Union helped in providing child care during the meeting. Diamondhead Church and New Hope Church, Gulfport, provided youths to work with the children.

Earl Kelly, former executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, brought the closing message. The next gathering will be held in Alabama in 1997.

## Cancellation

The Worship Seminar scheduled for Friday, Aug. 18, in the chapel of the Baptist Building in Jackson has been cancelled due to the illness of the seminar leader, music consultant Regan Courtney. The event will not be rescheduled for this year.

Call Gary Garner for a free introductory consultation.



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## Missionary News

**Donald and Elise Brown**, Baptist representatives to Israel, are in the United States (address: Rt. 2, Box 403, Holly Springs, MS 38635). He was born in El Dorado, Ark., and considers Vivian, La., his hometown. The former Elsie Word, she was born in Coahoma County, and considers Clarksdale her hometown.

**Eddie and Marilyn Graves**, missionaries to Chile, are on the field (address: Casilla 1417, Concepcion, Chile). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Ripley, and she is the former Marilyn Lewis of Starkville.

**Philip and Sheila Marshall**, missionaries to Thailand, are in the United States (address: P.O. Box 1949, Prentiss, MS 39474). Philip was born in Bangkok, Thailand, and lived in Natchez and Baker, La. The former Sheila Thrash, she was born in Waycross, Ga., and grew up in Decatur, Miss.

**Diane Smith**, missionary to the Ivory Coast, is on the field (address: Mission Baptiste, 01 BP 3722, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast). She was born in Collins and considers Jackson her hometown.

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Thursday, August 17, 1995

## Just for the Record



**Osyka Church, Osyka**, held its GAs Recognition Service on May 7. Pictured in the one-four class (above photo) are Holly Ott, Suzanna Adams; top row, C.J. Schilling, Mandy Wall, and Amy Terrell. GAs receiving badges in the one-four grades (left photo) are (from left) front row, Haily Ott, Toni Schilling; middle row, Katie Cutrer, Tiffany Strickland, Elizabeth Wall; third row, Abigail Wall, Lacey Morris, and Lana Schilling.



**First Church, Senatobia**, held its Acteen/GA Coronation on May 17. Emmy Jarjoura is the director. Pictured are Acteens (above) and GAs (top).

## Homecomings

**Thomastown (Leake)**: Aug. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night service; James Young, missionary on furlough, evangelist; Rick Hammarstrom, pastor.

**D'Lo (Simpson)**: Aug. 20; 11:30 a.m.; Eugene Roberts, former pastor, guest speaker; noon meal in fellowship hall; Obadiah will sing at 1:30 p.m.; no night service; Robert Sones, pastor.



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Book Store Manager Search  
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Baptist Sunday School Board  
127 Ninth Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37234

## Names in the News



**Keith Sanders** (right) was ordained to the gospel ministry on June 25 by Noxapater Church, Noxapater, where his father, Wayne Sanders (left) is pastor. He is now pastor of French Camp Church, French Camp, which his father pastored in 1965.



**Virgie Hovell** was honored with a reception on June 11 celebrating her retirement from 27 years as treasurer of First Church, Verona. She was also presented with a plaque in the 11 a.m. worship service. Pictured with Hovell is David Hamilton, pastor.

**WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP)** — **Jerol Swaim**, interim president of Williams Baptist College since March, has been given the job on a permanent basis. Williams' board of trustees voted unanimously July 20 to make Swaim WBC's fifth president. The new president is a veteran administrator and instructor at Williams, having worked for the college 31 years. He began in the classroom in 1964, teaching history and political science at what was then Southern Baptist College.

**County Line Church, Ovett**, will honor its retiring pastor, Marvin Dean, in an all-day celebration on Aug. 27.

**Zion Hill Church, Wesson**, will host the Florida Boys in concert at 7 p.m. on Sept. 1.

**New Hope Church, Monticello**, will have a youth celebration on Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Jon Daniels of First Church, Brookhaven. Praise Band of First Church, McComb, will provide the music.

**The Mississippi College Department of Psychology** and Counseling has announced a special graduate class, Counseling Theory and Practice, to be offered this fall. Tuition and fees for this class are \$680. For more information, call (601) 925-3841.

**Northeast Baptist Mission** in Lauderdale County held dedication services on July 30 for its new educational building. The mission is sponsored by State Boulevard Church, Meridian, and Lauderdale Association. W.F. Evans is pastor. Five acres of land were purchased with funds from the State Mission Offering. The building was constructed by the Lauderdale County Builders for Christ and mission members. Following the dedication, revival services were held with State Boulevard's pastor, Philip Smith, and layman Everette Kimbriel.

**Edward Ludlow**, associate professor of organ and church music at Blue Mountain College, will be presented in a faculty organ recital on Sept. 5 in

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## Revival Dates

**Oakvale (Lawrence):** Aug. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; Mike Alexander, Jayess, evangelist; Phillip Lundy, Louisville, music; Don Taylor, pastor.

**Siloam, West Point:** Aug. 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship services; covered dish dinner, noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 nightly; John Ed Snell, Utica, evangelist; Eddie Wilhite, Tupelo, music; David Bishop, pastor.

**Immanuel, Batesville:** Aug. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joel Stroud, Lyon, evangelist; Pat Heron, Batesville, music; Eugene Howell, pastor.

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**First, Soso:** Aug. 20-23; Sun.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with lunch at noon; Valton Douglas, Bethlehem Church, Jones County, evangelist; Rick Hamm, Petal, music; Ralph Graves, interim pastor.

**Chester, Ackerman:** Aug. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; John and Lisa McDaniel, Memphis, Tenn., music; David Grisham, pastor.

**Morgan City (Leflore):** Aug. 20-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Glenn Simmons, evangelist; Olive Thompson, music; Robert Moore, pastor.

**Union Hall Brookhaven:** Aug. 27-Sept. 1; 7 p.m. nightly; Philip Weaver, evangelist; Randy and Janice Carruth, music; Joel Brister, pastor.

**Cornersville, Potts Camp:** Aug. 20-25; 7 p.m. nightly; Don Baggett, Blue Springs, evangelist; Samuel L. Cox, pastor.

Thursday, August 17, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Staff Changes

**Pine Hill Church**, Enterprise, has called **Chester F. Carlisle** as pastor effective July 16. A native of Meridian, Carlisle received his education at the University of West Alabama and is working towards a master's degree from New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Pleasant Hill Church, Harrisburg, Ark.



**Center Ridge Church**, Yazoo City, has called **Howard Collier** as pastor effective June 4. A native of Natchez, he received his education at Southwestern Bible College and is attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Terry.



**Drew Church**, Sunflower Association, has called **Stanley Wafler** as pastor effective June 1. A native of Memphis, Wafler received his education at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Tickfaw, La.

**North McComb Church**, McComb, has called **Chad W.**

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**CHILDREN'S MINISTER.** Full time position. Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. Please send resumes to Staff Search Committee, c/o Ross Burton, 1901 North Pierce Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

**LONGINO BAPTIST CHURCH** is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time Youth Minister. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 483, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

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**Logan** as minister of music effective Aug. 13. A native of Bruce, Logan received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was intern at Crossgates Church, Brandon.

**Meadowood Church**, Amory, has called **Ken Tanner** as minister of education effective Aug. 1. A native of Opp, Ala., Tanner received his education at Auburn University and New Orleans Seminary.

**Woodville Heights Church**, Jackson, has called **Mark M. Sandifer** as minister of youth and activities effective Aug. 6. A native of Harrisville, Sandifer received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Owensboro, Ky.

**Center Ridge Church**, Yazoo City, has called **Howard Collier** as pastor effective June 4. A native of Natchez, he received his education at Southwestern Bible College and is attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Terry.



**Ron Simpson** resigned the pastorate of Union Church, Lincoln Association, to accept a position with his wife, **Lisa Ann**, at the **Natchez Children's Home** as houseparents. Both received their education at Blue Mountain College. They officially begin houseparent duties on Aug. 21.

**Gary Strehlow** has resigned Barton Church, George Association, to accept a call from Central Church, Brookhaven.

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**Ken McLemore** resigned as pastor of First Church, Lake, to enter career missionary service in Moldova (formerly a U.S.S.R. state).

**Temple Church**, Hattiesburg, has called **Tim Whipple** as its new minister to students. A native of Cleveland, Tenn., Whipple received his education at the University of Tennessee and Southern Seminary.

**Whipple**, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, has called **Tim Whipple** as its new minister to students. A native of Cleveland, Tenn., Whipple received his education at the University of Tennessee and Southern Seminary.

**Rocky Point Church**, Leake Association, has called **Levon Moore** as interim pastor. Moore is retired director of missions for Attala Association. He began his duties with the church on July 16.

**East Columbia Church**, Columbia, has called **Otho Jay "O.J." Seals** as pastor effective July 30. His previous place of service was Tyler-town Church, Tyler, Seals town.

**Del Gann** began his pastoral work at **Terry Road Church**, Jackson, on July 2. Gann has pastored churches in Copiah and Rankin counties. **Jody Goussett** began his work with the church as youth director Aug. 6. His previous place of service was Alta Wood Church, Jackson.

**First Church, Gautier**, has called **Charles E. Welch Jr.** as minister of students and activities. He is a graduate of Hinds Community College and Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Hillcrest Church, Jackson.

**County Line, Mendenhall**, has called **Brian Herring** as associate pastor. His previous place of service was First Church, Fannin, as minister of youth. **Ted Dukes** is pastor.

**Paul H. Russell** has resigned Taylor Church, Taylor, as pastor effective Aug. 14. He has accepted the pastorate of Sunridge Church, Sebring, Fla.

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## Uniform Fair warning to Judah



By Andy Brasher  
Isaiah 5, 9

When my son was four years old, he developed a nasty habit of saying that he "didn't love daddy and mommy any more." After a few times, my patience wore thin. As a responsible parent, I gave him fair warning about the punishment he was going to receive if those words were ever again repeated. He paid little attention to my warning. Then it happened; he said those magical detestable words. The brunt of my fury fell upon his little round bottom. Never again have those infamous words been spoken.

Like my son, Israel was God's child. God had given them fair warning concerning their unsatisfactory behavior. Those warnings had gone unheeded (9:8-12). To make matters worse, Israel even refused to acknowledge the threat of God's pending correction (9:13-17). God explained to Israel that their sins would bring about retribution and destruction. Along with the agonies of famine, there would arise the horrors of civil war between Ephraim and Manasseh, the two dominant tribes of the Northern Kingdom. Pursuant to destruction, anarchy would prevail (9:18-21).

In Isaiah 10:1-5, the prophet turned his attention to the nation of Judah and the punishment they would receive. Unscrupulous judges and government officials, who had abused their power and privilege through oppression and unjust sentences for personal gain, would find their indiscretions fittingly punished before God's court of justice.

**The song of the vineyard (5:1-7).** This is one of the classic passages in Isaiah demonstrating the prophet's literary skills at their highest. Isaiah intricately wove the story of the vineyard, slowly drawing his listener/reader into the plot. Once snared, the prophet revealed that Israel was the vineyard, and the hedges that God had erected for their intimate protection would be torn down.

**Six woes against Judah's sin (5:8-25).** God, like a loving parent, explained to Judah precisely the reasons for their punishment. He left nothing to be questioned as the guilty verdict was read. Each specific verdict began with the word "woe." The Hebrew word is *hoy*. It's a term that describes the cry of mourners at a funeral. The word is indicative of God's somber mood and the future agony of Judah.

**1. The verdict against greedy land grabbers (5:8-10).** Judah's insatiable greed for land would be repaid by God, for its houses would go tenantless with fields yielding little grain. The God of the whole earth would exercise retributive justice against them.

**2. The verdict against the dissipation of alcohol (5:1-17).** This passage deals with a frivolous pleasure-seeking lifestyle. Instead of beginning the day with prayer, a strong drink was substituted. What a substitution! Because they had ignored God's warning and the pursuit of holiness, their temporal punishment would include bondage, famine, and exile.

**3. The verdict against a spirit of defiance (5:18-19).** Judah had become so accustomed to sinning that it had become acceptable conduct. Thus, they were dragging their sins behind them "as it were with a cart rope." Their wicked habits had produced a spirit of mockery towards God.

**4. The verdict against confusing moral values (5:20).** This woe is directed against the falsification of moral absolutes and ethical reality. A reversal of good for evil.

**5. The verdict against conceit and self-sufficiency (5:21).** Judah had grandiose delusions of thinking that they were more sagacious than God. Human wisdom brings pride, not sacrificial love and obedience.

**6. The verdict against the perversion of justice (5:26-30).** The innocent and poor had been deprived of their legal rights in cases at law. The punishment would be destruction by fire (v. 24).

**Prediction of God's judgment (5:26-30).** God would employ pagan nations, Babylon in particular, to bring swift judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem. This would be accomplished by a comprehensive and brutal military campaign.

**Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.**

## Bible Book Messages of restoration



By Larry McDonald  
Ezekiel 37

Even though Ezekiel 37 was written to the nation of Israel, when I read it I think of the condition of many churches today. Many who call themselves God's children are lifeless and therefore feel a hopelessness about their future. There is a great need for restoration and revival among God's people. R.G. Lee wrote the following, entitled "Revival — If?"

If all the sleeping folk will wake up,  
If all the lukewarm folk will fire up,  
If all the dishonest folk will confess up,  
If all the disgruntled folk will cheer up,  
If all the depressed folk will cheer up,  
If all the estranged folk will make up,  
If all the gossipers will shut up,  
If all true soldiers will stand up,  
If all the dry bones will shake up,  
If all the church members will pray up...  
Then we can have a revival!

As we work our way through this passage let our prayer be that God would begin a revival in our hearts that will spread to others.

Ezekiel began this chapter by stating "The hand of the Lord was upon me" (v. 1). This was his normal way of introducing a visionary experience (1:3; 8:1). This vision was of dry bones in a valley (vv. 4-7). Ezekiel was commanded to speak God's message to those bones. That word consisted of a promise to give breath, life, tendons, flesh, and skin to the bones so they would know that he is Yahweh. Before Ezekiel even completed his message, he heard the noise of the bones coming together clothed with flesh, but they still were not alive. Ezekiel then was commanded by God to prophesy of God's Spirit that would fill these corpses. As life entered these corpses, they stood as a vast, living, reconstituted army.

Then God interpreted the vision for Ezekiel (vv. 11-14). The dry bones represented the whole house of Israel. The people expressed their condition by saying, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off" (v. 11). God was responding to the people's sense of hopelessness. The question "Can these bones live?" pointed not only to Israel's sin which brought about their exile, but also to God's promise of restoration to the nation as they turned from their sin to God. God said, "I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them." The revival of the nation was going to be a manifestation of God's power, not human power. This was a great message of encouragement to Ezekiel and the people exiled. God was not finished with them yet. He still had a purpose and plan.

Ezekiel once again talked of the "covenant of peace" (vv. 23-24). He had introduced this covenant in 34:23-24. This time he included two additional elements in restating this promise (34:26). First, the people would be restored to the land forever. Second, a sanctuary would again be constructed among them that would remain forever. This was called an "everlasting covenant." This phrase occurs 16 times in the Old Testament, referring at times to the Noahic covenant (Gen. 9:16), the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 17:7, 13, 19), the Davidic covenant (2 Sam. 23:5), and the new covenant (Jer. 32:40).

Lamar Cooper Sr. says, "From our vantage point, it is clear not all of these promises were fulfilled after the first return from Babylon. Prophecy often had an immediate, limited fulfillment but also a long-range, more complete fulfillment. If this was the case, it meant that Ezekiel was describing details, many of which would be fulfilled in a future permanent return beyond the immediate purview of the return from Babylon."

A book on preaching has been published entitled **Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead**. Many pastors identify with the feeling of that title because each Sunday they feel like they are preaching to the same old dry bones. It is time for the dry bones to once again live within our churches. We must open ourselves up to God's power to revive and restore us so we can once again be God's mighty army in this world.

**McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.**

## Life and Work A letter gets personal



By Bob Rogers  
Colossians 4

In times of discouragement, I often look over old notes and letters of love and appreciation from members of my present church and former churches.

Paul ends his letter to the Colossians with personal words of encouragement. He even writes the last words in his own handwriting (v. 18) rather than using his scribe. He mentions 11 people and two other churches by name in 11 verses.

**Tychicus** was a messenger for Paul who delivered several New Testament letters (vv. 7-8; Eph. 6:21). He serves as an example of Christians who are willing to go wherever God sends them.

**Onesimus** was a runaway slave who apparently trusted Christ in Rome, and now Paul is sending him with Tychicus back to Philemon of Colosse, his former master. His story is told in Paul's letter to Philemon.

The story of Onesimus and Philemon is a call to face up to one's past, and to forgive those who have wronged us. It is also a challenge to accept Christians of low social status as a "dear brother, who is one of you" (v. 9).

**Aristarchus** was a man who stood by Paul during the toughest of times. He was seized during the riot at Ephesus (Acts 19:29). He travelled with Paul to Rome (Acts 27:2) and is mentioned as "my fellow prisoner" (v. 10).

**Mark**'s story is one of second chance. He is the same John Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark and in whose home the early church of Jerusalem sometimes met (Acts 12:12). As a "cousin of Barnabas" (v. 10), Barnabas was more willing than Paul to forgive Mark's desertion of them on their first missionary journey (Acts 15:36-40). This story has a happy ending, for late in life Paul asked Timothy to get Mark and bring him, because he "is very helpful to me in my ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11).

We know nothing about **Jesus**, who is called **Justus** (v. 11) except that he had a wonderful name. But words aren't what count; what counts is faith and love in action (1 John 3:18; James 2:17).

**Epaphras** founded the church at Colosse (1:7), as well as the nearby churches in Laodicea and Hierapolis (v. 13). Although he was absent, he was a prayer warrior "always wrestling in prayer for you" (v. 12). Some people get the mistaken idea from this phrase that in prayer we must wrestle against God to get him to do what we wish. No, the wrestling is not against God but against Satan and against our own selfishness and love of pleasure (Eph. 6:12; James 4:3; 1 John 5:14).

**Luke**, writer of the gospel of Luke and the Acts, was a physician (v. 14). During Paul's final imprisonment, when everyone else was gone, Luke was there (2 Tim. 4:11).

**Demas**, along with Luke, sent greetings (v. 14). However, when the end came, Paul said, "Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me" (2 Tim. 4:9).

**Nympha** (the King James Version has the masculine "Nymphae") was a woman who allowed the church at Laodicea to meet in her home. The early Christians had no buildings, so their worship centered in homes (Rom. 16:3-5; Phile. 2; Acts 12:12). The Greek word for church, *ecclesia*, means "called out ones." The church needs people to exist, not a building.

**Laodicea** was a city near Colosse whose church also had received a letter. This Laodicean letter was not the letter of Revelation 3:14-22, which was written after the lifetime of Paul. Perhaps the Laodiceans had received the same letter that Tychicus delivered to Ephesus.

Whatever the contents of the Laodicean letter, the point for us today is that the churches at Colosse and Laodicea were able to cooperate with one another in matters of mutual need.

**Archippus** may have been the pastor at Colosse in the absence of Epaphras; he is also greeted in Philemon 2. He is urged to "complete the work you have received in the Lord."

Many pastors today who feel like giving up, need to hear this same word. Why not write a note of encouragement to your pastor or another person in your church who has blessed your life?

**Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.**

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**MARCH 1, 1995 - MARCH 31, 1995**

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**APRIL 1, 1995 - APRIL 30, 1995**

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Colonel & Mrs. Henry F. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel E. Shipp  
**Dr. William O. Barnett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Hardage  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Howell  
**Mrs. Lena Barron**  
Mrs. Lorena B. Newman  
**Bob Bearden**  
Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Sandifer  
**Joe Beeson**  
The Bobby G. Fleming Family  
**Leroy Bell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kemp  
**Fred Bell**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas Bruton  
**Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Bennett**  
Mrs. Norman Moody  
**Wayne Wilson Bennett**  
The Woody Bennett Family  
Mr. Frank Bryant  
Mrs. Patricia Purser  
**William E. Bennett**  
Mrs. Archie L. Hall  
**Mr. Charles Binns**  
Mrs. Thelma Woodyear  
**Mrs. Barbara Blair**  
Adair and Mary Margaret  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
**Mr. Lee Bower**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sledge  
**Helen S. Bowie**  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gnevi  
**Mr. Jack Bragg**  
Wayne and Amy Driskill  
**Mrs. Margaret Brock**  
Ruth SS, Bovina BC  
**Mrs. Waymon Broome**  
Dr. & Mrs. Billy Broome  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
**Mrs. Barbara Brown**  
Mr. & Mrs. D. S. Bowering



**Curtis Craft**  
Mrs. Betty J. Duncan  
**Armeda M. Creson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen  
**Mrs. Christine Croft**  
Miss Rachael Johnson  
**Mrs. Eunice Cutrer**  
Mrs. Nell Case  
**Clifton Daniels**  
Mrs. Minnie Gossett  
**Robert Lee Daughdrill**  
Mrs. Willie Mae Coulter  
**Jennifer Davis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Coats  
**Mrs. Ardis Daves**  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Daves  
Mr. & Mrs. I. G. Patterson  
**Alice Davis**  
Mrs. Jean Rankin Cockrell  
**Mr. Robert Davis**  
Adair and Mary Margaret  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge  
**Mr. Vernon Davis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Hull  
**Sam McCarty Davis**  
Alexander Memorial Baptist Church  
Vivian & Bill Clayton  
Lind S. Dillivar  
Kenneth McCarty Families  
Eugenia and France Odum  
**Mrs. Lois Dearman**  
Bude First Baptist Church  
**Mrs. Cynthia Delaney**  
Goss Baptist Church  
**Mike Dillard**  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Whittington  
**Son of Rev. & Mrs. David Doty**  
Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Sigrest Jr.  
**Mrs. Faye Downey**  
Dr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Adams  
**Rosie Dowis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Perkins  
**Wallace Dreher**  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Byrd  
**Olin Dunn, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ad Rutledge  
**Hal Durham**  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Gillon  
**Ira J. Cox**  
Mr. & Mrs. Freddie L. Jones  
Gladys Scott Coy  
Mrs. W. E. Owen  
James Vardaman Craft, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Buykin  
Mrs. Minnie Horn  
**Mr. Oscar Dykes**

**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges**  
**Mr. August H. "Gus" Eifling**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ramsey  
Dr. John Estess  
**Mrs. Doris Omura Ellis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lovell  
**Mrs. Georgia Faye Elzey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas White  
**Caroline Evans**  
Mrs. Marine M. Cole  
**Mr. Isham Harrison Euvour, III**  
Mrs. Hazel Flora  
Earl Flora  
**Mrs. Clara L. Farmer**  
Galilee Baptist Church  
Maude Barney SS, Galilee BC  
Mrs. Doris E. Smith  
**Mr. Maxie L. Finch**  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry  
**Mr. Robert Fitzhugh**  
Mrs. Lonnie L. (Frances) Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haskins  
**Natalie Fitzpatrick**  
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Hutto  
**Mrs. Marie Moore Fleming**  
Mr. & Mrs. Lenoy Thomas  
**Mrs. W. M. Fleming**  
Mens Friendship Bible Class, North Greenwood BC  
**Miss Frances Fortenberry**  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fortenberry  
Mrs. Erine G. Brown  
**Donald Franks**  
Mrs. Helen B. Moore  
**Mrs. Evelyn Franks**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Gory  
Mrs. Bernice Ruff  
**Sarah Roseberry Freeman**  
Mrs. Fannie Ashford  
**Mrs. Myrtle Grace Fulgham**  
Spring Hill Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Truett Helms  
Calhoun Pastor's Conference  
Dr. & Mrs. A. H. Ward  
**Mr. William S. (Bill) Garrett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Lyons  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Valentine  
**Delia Gilliam**

**Leake County Brotherhood** prepared a much-appreciated fish dinner for children and staff on our India Nunnery Campus. Rev. Joe Abel, Leake County Director of Missions, was present.

**Van Vleet Baptist Church**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Phillips  
Mrs. Howard Ray  
**L. F. Henry**  
Mr. John E. Lee  
**Gayle Henslerling**  
Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Rouse  
**Harold (Papa) Hill**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen  
**Mr. Lavern Hill**  
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy & Staff  
**Mrs. Stella Hisaw**  
Mrs. Charles M. Agent  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Coleman  
**Mrs. Erline Hill**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Eldridge  
**Thomas Hollingsworth**  
Mrs. Adrene B. Hollingsworth  
Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Hood  
Dr. & Mrs. James M. Henderson  
**Mrs. Blanch Hudson**  
Mrs. Hattie Choute  
**Janie Huffstickler**  
Crenshaw Baptist Church  
**Mr. Marion D. Hutson**  
The Kenner Harvey Family  
**Paul Irby, Jr.**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Reynolds  
**Simmie Jackson**  
Ms. Leah Jackson  
**Mrs. Mary Lou James**  
Carolyn, Jim and Lyn Henry  
**Mrs. Mildred James**  
Kolola Springs Baptist Church  
Mrs. Floyd Griffin  
**Mrs. Lucille Jarrett**  
Mr. & Mrs. Terri Champion and Wendy  
**Mrs. Herbert Jernber**  
Mrs. Charlene Catedge  
**Leo Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen  
**Mr. G. T. (George) Johnson**  
Senior Adult SS, Shady Grove BC  
**Mr. R. C. Johnson**  
Mrs. R. C. Johnson  
**Charles Henry**

(to be continued)

# Capsules

**ANNUITY BOARD TRUSTEES HEAR OF RECORD EARNINGS:** COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — Net earnings of \$416 million in six months pushed total assets of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to \$4.797 billion, a 9.4% increase over June 30, 1994. The large increase in earnings, an 18.4% increase in benefits paid, and notice of an anonymous gift to endowment exceeding \$1 million were highlights of reports to Annuity Board trustees in their summer meeting at Colorado Springs, Colo. The earnings reflected dramatically improved stock and bond markets in 1995. John R. Jones, senior vice president for investments, reported non annualized performances of the board's four investment funds in the first half of 1995: 2.74% for the International Equity Fund, 18.19% for the Variable Fund, 13.33% for the Balanced Fund, and 3.07% for the Fixed Fund. The Annuity Board's Adopt An Annuitant program, which provides an extra \$50 each month to annuitants with low monthly benefits, was paying the special supplement to 1,608 couples or individuals at the end of June. Funding for this program is by designated gifts from interested individuals or groups. Total paid in the first half of the year was \$457,620. There have been 187 recipients added since Jan. 1, 1995.

**SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH PLANTED THROUGH EFFORTS OF FORMER MERIDIAN PASTOR:** About 80 people attended the first service of Waterfall Baptist Church, a new church planted in South Africa with the help of Dennis and Cindy Jones. Sunday School and services are being held in the local Scout Hall as of July. The Joneses have ties to State Boulevard Church in Meridian, where he was pastor. According to Jones, "After seeing the way the Lord has led us, we all believe that God is truly at work around us and we have adjusted our lives to follow him." The Joneses have been Southern Baptist foreign missionaries since 1994 and have three children: Andrea, Rachel, and Morgan.

**SECOND "CHRISTY" VIDEO RELEASED: NASHVILLE (BP)** — A second segment of the CBS television series, "Christy," is being released in September by Broadman & Holman Publishers of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The first "Christy" video, the original two-hour network pilot, has sold more than 200,000 copies. The new episode, "The Sweetest Gift," was originally broadcast by CBS on Thanksgiving Day 1994. In the new video, Christy is torn between continuing her mission with the people of Cutter Gap and returning home to care for her father who has suffered a stroke. "The first Christy video found a huge untapped market in American families," said Harold King, director of media for B&H. "This one, we hope, will reach even more." Meanwhile, Christy fans shouldn't count on a conclusion to the show's season-ending cliffhanger. CBS didn't renew the series for next year so viewers may never know how Christy chooses between the two men pursuing her romantically: Cutter Gap's pastor, David Grantland, or doctor, Neil MacNeil. The family-oriented "Christy" is one of the few network television programs that develops the spiritual side of its characters, and its on-again-off-again presence on CBS has given its fans a roller-coaster test of loyalty. This is a "real test case," Ken Wales, the series' executive producer, said, showing whether people concerned about family oriented television will follow "Christy" to cable. "Christy" reruns start on The Family Channel on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. Eastern time.

**NEGOTIATIONS AT IMPASSE BETWEEN ACTS, FAITH AND VALUES CHANNEL: FORT WORTH (BP)** — Negotiations with the "Faith and Values" channel regarding ACTS programming have not worked out as hoped, Jack Johnson, president of the Radio and Television Commission, said Aug. 8. American Christian Television System is the cable television service operated by the RTVC. "We think negotiations are at an impasse," Johnson said, "so we have canceled a special called meeting of the RTVC trustees that was scheduled for Aug. 11." The trustee session was to approve or disapprove a possible agreement between ACTS, Liberty Media, and the National Interfaith Cable Coalition (NICC) that would keep the SBC network on the "Faith and Values" channel.

**UNCLAIMED SCHOLARSHIPS SEEKING STUDENTS:** With confusion over federal student grant approvals, direct government student loans, and changes in college financial aid guidelines, many students are finding it difficult to identify and understand their financial aid options and are missing out on receiving assistance that could be available to them. Unknown to most people, there are over 375,000 scholarship and grant sources available which do not have to be paid back. Eighty percent of these scholarships do not depend on family need or exceptional grades but are awarded based on factors such as the student's interest, hobbies, academic focus, age, heritage, or parent's military service. Remarkably, according to the National Commission on Student Financial Aid, over \$6 billion of funding goes uncollected each year because people do not apply for it. Now, through the assistance of the National Academic Funding Administration (NAFA), an expanded publication for 1995-96 is available which spells out the changes and guidelines for financial aid. For information on how to receive academic funding and scholarships, send a No. 10 self addressed, double-stamped business envelope plus \$2 to cover handling to NAFA, 815 Middle Street, Suite 1400, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

## Relevance, not chitchat, is key to successful women's ministry

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Expecting to get the female gender to attend the new women's enrichment ministry program at your church? Better ditch the idle chitchat.

Relevance is the key ingredient for women of the '90s seeking spiritual fulfillment, said Chris Adams, women's enrichment ministry specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Adams led a women's enrichment ministry training session at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center during Discipleship and Family Development Week, July 15-21.

"You've got to make the ministry you offer women in your church worth their while," she told the 100-plus women who attended the week-long training session. "Women are not going to come just to chitchat. You have to see where they are, ask them their

needs, and reach out."

Women are struggling for time and for balance in their lives, Adams said, adding 90% of women ages 16-65 are employed outside the home.

In 1960, 60% of women were choosing to stay home with their children, Adams said. Currently that figure has dropped to 7%.

Adams said Christian women of the '90s are seeking spiritual fulfillment as well as ministry opportunities.

"They desire spiritual growth. They are not just into getting together to play. They want to grow to the point where they can reach someone else," she said.

Adams said churches should not see women's ministry programs as an option.

"It is a responsibility," she said.

Adams listed several reasons why "it is important for churches

to have women's ministry programs." She said the programs:

- help churches grow spiritually and numerically.

- allow women to feel accepted into the church when they join. "Someone is in charge of making sure they are in the right Sunday School class, finding out their needs, and what ministry they would like to be involved in."

- open the doors to relationships that "help women understand there are others out there just like them."

- encourage women to discover and develop their spiritual gifts.

- provide coordination and vision for reaching out.

- provide woman-to-woman understanding.

- offer an opportunity for older women to instruct younger women. "... Pray for each other daily, talk on the phone at least once a week, and go to lunch or somewhere together once a month."

- help women fight spiritual battles. "Those of us who have a strong relationship with the Lord need to stand beside other women...."

While women's ministry programs provide good, solid spiritual, and numerical growth to churches, they do not arise without some bit of misunderstanding, Adams said.

"Some people think women just want to take over the church, and that is not what women want. We don't even want to be a ministry separate from the church," she said. "We want to undergird the ministry of the church — to be a part of the purpose of the church."

However, Adams said, some perceived problems with women's ministry come about legitimately and should be dealt with.

"Some people believe women will just take off on their ministry without consulting the church staff.

"If you are a leader, you need to go to your pastor and share your heart with him. Keep him or other staff members informed, and let them know you can work side by side."



### Leaving for the field

Larry and Alicia Braswell, with their children (from left) Drew, 3, Caitlyn, 2, and Wray, 6, left July 16 for their first term of missionary service in Brazil. Saying goodbye to the Braswells are Dennie Blanco (whose parents are from Bolivia) and neighbor Tim Dunnaway (right). Alicia is the daughter of retired Mississippi Annuity Board representative Bill Sellers and his wife Jeanette, both of Brandon.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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TAY OPJN HPTUO HGVTM, OPV UJMY UZSVOP,  
ZA OMNOP, ZA FNYCBVAO, TAY ZA MZCPOVJNH-  
AVHH; TAY OPV ATOZJAH HPTUU LUVHH OPVB-  
HVUSVH ZA PZB, TAY ZA PZB HPTUU OPVQ  
CUJMQ.

FVMVBZTP XJNM: OGJ

This week's clue: U equals L.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Numbers Thirty: Two.

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August 17, 1995